

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 BEIRUT 11800 221454Z

43

ACTION SS-25

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R 221423Z SEP 75
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6312

S E C R E T BEIRUT 11800

EXDIS

E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS:PFOR, LE, US
SUBJECT: U.S. ASSISTANCE TO GOL

1. LATE SATURDAY, SEPT 29, GHASSAN TUENI, CURRENTLY MINISTER OF LABOR, PETROLEUM AND TOURISM, ASKED TO SEE ME AT MY HOME. HE ARRIVED DIRECTLY FROM MEETING WITH PRESIDENT FRANGIE AND OTHER AT BAABDA. TUENI WAS OBVIOUSLY EXHAUSTED AND DEJECTED. HE ASKED MY VIEW OF THE SITUATION AND I TOLD HIM FRANKLY THAT IT APPEARED SERIOUS, CONFUSED AND COMPLICATED. TUENI ASKED IF WE COULD HEKP AND I SAID I DID NOT SEE HOW, BUT WHAT DID HE HAVE IN MIND HE ASKED ABOUT MILITARY INTERVENTION AND I RESPONDED BY SAYING I THOUGH HE KNEW MY COUNTRY SUFFICIENTLY WELL AT THIS TIME TO ABLE TO ANSWER THAT QUESTION HIMSELF.

2. HE THEN ASKED ABOUT A STATEMNET CONCERNING TERRITORIAL INTEGRITY OF THE LEBANON AND I REPLIED THAT I THOUGH THAT EVERY MESSAGE I HAD DELIVERED TO PRESIDENT FRANGIE FROM PRESIDENTS NIXON AND FORD HAD CONTAINED SUCH A STATEMENT. WITH REGARD TO S SOLUTION OF THE CURRENT DIFFICULTIES I POINTED OUT THAT I WELCOME THE ASSISTANCE LEBANON SEEMED TO BE RECEIVING FROM ARAB COUNTRIES AND I HOPED THAT NEGOTIATIONS AMONG THE VARIOUS SECTIONS WOULD SOON REPLACE GUNFIRE.

3. CONVERSATION WITH TUENI WAS BRIEF, FOR HE HAD TO RETURN TO THE PRESIDENCY TO MEET AGAIN WITH KHADDAM, BUT HE DID NOTE THEAT PRESIDENT WAS AWARE OF HIS CALLING ON ME AND HAD ASKED HIM TO SEEK OUR VIEW.

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GODLEY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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